

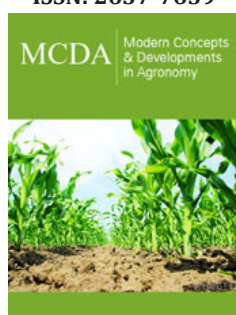
# Livestock Cluster as an Option Within the Fourth Transformation in Mexico

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ISSN: 2637-7659



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**Submission:**  March 26, 2022

**Published:**  April 06, 2022

Volume 10 - Issue 4

**How to cite this article:** Israel Osuna Flores, Mario Guadalupe López Ayala. Livestock Cluster as an Option Within the Fourth Transformation in Mexico. *Mod Concep Dev Agrono.* 10(4). MCDA. 000744. 2022. DOI: [10.31031/MCDA.2022.10.000744](https://doi.org/10.31031/MCDA.2022.10.000744)

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## Opinion

The bovine beef cattle industry represents one day an important strategy for food security in Mexico, since according to the National Development Plan 2018-2024. Faced with this important challenge, it is necessary to contemplate strategies for the competitive improvement of this commercial sector. One of the viable alternatives that has been applied worldwide since recent times and is rapidly growing is the formation of agglomerates or clusters, whose objective is to seek alliances with the public and private sectors, universities and research centers, so that in as a whole, the development and productivity of beef cattle herds is promoted. Livestock in Mexico occupies around 110 million hectares, which represents 60% of the national territory and generates around 1,820,547 tons of meat per year [1].

The livestock that is practiced in Mexico is of two types:

1. Intensive livestock farming requires a high economic investment, although it is the one that provides the most profits, since it is carried out in proper places for the industrial development of livestock. It is supervised by experts from the birth to the slaughter of the cattle, which guarantees greater weight of the animal, better quality of the meat and shorter breeding time. In Mexico, there are few livestock regions of this type, but it is in the northern region of Mexico, such as Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, where there are more centers of this type of breeding.
2. Extensive ranching is the most developed in Mexico and is considered the traditional way of breeding, which consists of letting the animals graze freely on pastures that grow naturally. This type of farming does not have the technological advances of intensive farming and, therefore, does not generate the same results or the same profits. In the central and southern part of the national territory, in the states of Michoacán, Jalisco, Veracruz, Tabasco and Chiapas, extensive livestock farming is the most developed.

The meat industry in Mexico is not homogeneous; there are marked differences between the production of the north and that of the center and south of the country. For example, in the center and south, the industry is mainly focused on the sale of "hot" meat, that is, the meat is marketed coming off the slaughterhouse, while in the north the meat is refrigerated or, where appropriate, frozen. Another fundamental difference lies in the feeding and management systems for livestock in general, since in the north, the industry has more technical systems than in the rest of the country.

The National Development Plan 2018-2024 proposes the livestock credit program, which consists of delivering from one to 10 heifers and up to one bull per producer, which represents

the acquisition of 200,000 cattle, with an authorized budget of 4 billion pesos, for the benefit of 19,200 ejidatarios and small owners [2]. The volume of beef production in Mexico in 2021 exceeded two million metric tons, representing an increase of around 50,000 tons compared to the volume of production reported in 2020 [3], with the states of Veracruz and Jalisco those with the highest production.

In order to improve the entire production chain, the livestock cluster is presented, where the different actors of this productive activity are involved, such as: primary producers, fatteners, exporters, marketers and government authorities, with the aim of reinforcing livestock activity. rancher of the State of Sinaloa. The development of a cluster is strategic for the promotion of innovation, since it allows the sectorial concentration of organisms that carry out closely related activities, for the increase in productivity in the companies and industries that form it, improvements in the capacity for innovation, and the formation of new companies that broaden and deepen the advantages provided by the cluster.

Livestock production of bovine meat despite the stabilization that it has presented in recent periods, in recent years it has begun to have an increase in the import and export market worldwide. In Mexico, the trend is towards an increase in the production of beef cattle in the coming years, where it is expected that said production will double.

The bovine meat product system needs interdisciplinary support where different sectors are involved, both those of the value chain itself, as well as Universities, Research Centers, Financial Institutions and similar companies for competitive improvement where they are taken. taking into account contributions of new technologies and innovations.

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2. (2019-2024) National Development Plan, p. 63.
3. STATISTA (2022) Volume of beef production in Mexico.

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